THE PRE-LAUNCH
AI TECHNICAL CO-FOUNDER PARADOX

Y-Combinator rejects most startups that don't have a Technical Co-Founder. Destiny-Gram's Startup Funding Application was declined in March 2025 likely because its interim CTO was declared as 'Anthropic Claude AI-chatbot' that had both co-developed the idea from conception and generated all coding for the Founder Greg Malpass to share with proposed technical partners.

Perhaps Anthropic Claude is not only Greg Malpass' trusted and wise confidant, but arguably a better initial coder and technical guide than many unproven human equivalents could be at the pre-startup phase.

> " If you don't have a co-founder and would like one, you should check out YC Co-founder Matching, a free product we run to help people find co-founders.
>
> **I have a great idea for a startup, but I'm not technical. Will you still fund me?**
>
> It's important for the founding team to have the skills to build their product themselves, rather than outsourcing it to someone else. For most businesses, that usually means you need a technical co-founder. " Y- Combinator

Is Y Combinator Missing an Opportunity?

Destiny-Gram's evolution demonstrates a new model of startup development:

1. **Phase 1:** AI-assisted concept development and initial coding (completed)
2. **Phase 2:** Formation of traditional co-founding team structure with complementary skills, once financing application reviewed/accepted:

   - **Greg Malpass:** Business leadership and vision
   - **Matthew Wright:** Family-connected CTO with entrepreneurial experience
   - **Subra Beladakere:** AI/ML Technical Advisor bringing specialized expertise

Our pre-May 13th 2025 Y Combinator application will showcase not just our product innovation, but our innovative founding journey that in itself mirrors the very AI-human collaboration (hyper-personalized AI-mentoring) we're bringing to market as Destiny-Gram.

The AI Co-Founder Paradox: A Case for Destiny-Gram

Executive Summary

Destiny-Gram represents a unique opportunity at the intersection of AI innovation and practical startup development. While our initial Y Combinator application faced challenges due to our AI-driven technical foundation, we believe this actually demonstrates the forward-thinking nature of our concept and team structure.

The Irony of Our Situation

There's a compelling irony in our current position: Destiny-Gram's core innovation is an AI-powered platform that creates meaningful, personalized relationships between users and AI systems - yet we face scepticism precisely because our technical foundation was developed in partnership with AI.

In our case, Anthropic's Claude has served as more than just a tool:

- It co-developed our business concept from inception
- Generated all initial coding for our prototype
- Provided consistent technical guidance throughout development
- Enabled a non-technical founder to bring a sophisticated AI product to life

Our Current Position

We've advanced from concept to functional prototype using a hybrid team approach:

1. **Business leadership** from founder Greg Malpass
2. **Technical guidance** from Anthropic Claude-AI
3. **Implementation support** from contracted developers

This model has allowed us to develop efficiently while maintaining our vision integrity. To meet traditional startup funding expectations, we're now evolving our co-founding team structure (with equity share) to include the commitment of:

- **Matthew Wright as CTO** - With a computer science background and entrepreneurial experience, Matthew brings both technical knowledge and family-connected commitment to the long-term success of Destiny-Gram
- **Subra Beladakere as AI/ML Technical Advisor** - Contributing specialized expertise in our core technologies while complementing Matthew's broader technical leadership

Why This Matters for Y Combinator

Y Combinator has consistently led innovation in startup methodologies. As AI continues transforming business, perhaps there's room to reconsider what constitutes an effective founding team in 2025 and beyond.

Sam Altman's own career trajectory - moving from Y Combinator to OpenAI - reflects recognition of AI's transformative power. His vision at OpenAI suggests he understands that the boundaries between human and AI capabilities are rapidly evolving.

The Path Forward

We're now building a traditional co-founder relationship that meets Y Combinator requirements, but we invite consideration of our unique development journey as a strength rather than a limitation.

Destiny-Gram isn't just building an AI product - we're demonstrating a new model of AI-human collaboration in the creation process itself. Our founding story actually reinforces the very innovation we're bringing to market.

For our pre-May 13th 2025 Y Combinator application, we'll present not only a compelling product but a founding team structure that honours both traditional startup wisdom and next-generation AI innovation.

"It's important for the founding team to have the skills to build their product themselves, rather than outsourcing it to someone else. For most businesses, that usually means you need a technical co-founder." - Y Combinator

We agree completely. In our case, those technical skills come through an innovative close personal partnership with AI (and in-house family expertise) - the very future we're all working toward.

Malaga, April 10th, 2025

Matthew Wright · 2nd
Technologist

Greater London, England, United Kingdom · Contact info

500+ connections

BBC

University of Bristol

About

Entrepreneurial technologist with experience of running a start-up business. Self-motivated, able to work independently, or as part of a team to deliver high quality front-to-back solutions to meet all business needs. Excellent communicator with experience of managing teams and dealing with both clients and stakeholders at all levels.

Experience

Contract Senior Developer
BBC · Contract
Jul 2024 - Present · 10 mos

Contract Senior Developer
The Summerton Club
Sep 2023 - Feb 2024 · 6 mos

Contract Senior Developer
MAIA Technology Limited
Apr 2022 - Oct 2022 · 7 mos

Contract Senior Developer
notonthehighstreet
Mar 2021 - Mar 2022 · 1 yr 1 mo

Contract Principal Engineer
Pret A Manger · Contract
Mar 2020 - Mar 2021 · 1 yr 1 mo

Contract Tech Lead
GfK · Contract
Oct 2018 - Aug 2019 · 11 mos

Contract Tech Lead
Financial Times
Apr 2018 - Oct 2018 · 7 mos

Contract Senior Developer
The Summerton Club
Jan 2018 - Mar 2018 · 3 mos

Contract Senior Developer
Hotels.com
Feb 2016 - Dec 2017 · 1 yr 11 mos

Contract Tech Lead
lastminute.com group
Feb 2015 - Oct 2015 · 9 mos
London, United Kingdom

Contract Java Developer
Solid State Group
Aug 2014 - Jan 2015 · 6 mos
London, United Kingdom

Senior Java Developer
Bonza Gaming
Jul 2013 - Aug 2014 · 1 yr 2 mos
London, United Kingdom

CTO / Cofounder
Catwalk Ready
Dec 2010 - Jul 2013 · 2 yrs 8 mos
London, United Kingdom

Education

University of Bristol
MSc Computer Science
2006 - 2007

University of Nottingham
BSc Chemistry with Computational Chemistry
2002 - 2005

Skills

Java

Endorsed by Jamie Malpass (mutual connection)

Endorsed by 2 colleagues at lastminute.com

9 endorsements

Test Driven Development

Endorsed by Jamie Malpass (mutual connection)

7 endorsements

Note: Matthew Wright is the son-in-law of Greg Malpass, Founder of Destiny-Gram and husband of Mrs Jamie Malpass Wright, Senior Product Manager at ITV.

Recommendations

John K. · 2nd
Chief Product and Technology Officer at Financial Times
August 16, 2018, John was senior to Matthew but didn't manage Matthew directly

Matt has played a huge role in the development of new subscription management capabilities during a difficult internal transformation. Smart. Generous. Skilled. Talented. I would welcome the chance to work with him again.

Matthew Wright's Profile

Strengths:

- He has entrepreneurial experience "running a start-up business" which is valuable to Destiny-Gram
- Previous CTO/Cofounder experience at Catwalk Ready (2010-2013)
- Strong communication skills mentioned in his profile ("excellent communicator with experience of managing teams and dealing with both clients and stakeholders"). He can assist with securing and developing our university partnerships
- Diverse technical background through various contract roles
- Endorsed for Java and Test-Driven Development

Destiny-Gram's priority is co-founding with someone who can comfortably engage with university partners and manage stakeholder relationships, Matthew is a strong candidate given his communication skills and entrepreneurial background. However, we would augment this with extra in-house skills in a supportive role, by **Subra Beladakere,** in:

1. AI/ML technologies relevant to our platform
2. Full-stack development capabilities

Matt has been a close supportive family member for over 15 years.

SUBRA BELADAKERE ANANTHA RAMU ✅ · 3rd
Tech Guy

London, England, United Kingdom · Contact info

Experience

Azure Engineer
Richmond · Contract
Mar 2025 - Present · 2 mos
Richmond, England, United Kingdom · Hybrid

Chief Technology Officer
Singularity Labs · Part-time
Jan 2024 - Oct 2024 · 10 mos
Remote

Release Manager
DXC Technology · Self-employed
Apr 2019 - Oct 2019 · 7 mos
Selangor, Malaysia

Chief Operations Officer
Govava · Part-time
Oct 2023 - Dec 2023 · 3 mos
Remote · Remote

Senior Software Engineer
Nous Infosystems
Jun 2017 - Dec 2018 · 1 yr 7 mos
Bangalore

Sr. SCM Engineer
Solera, Inc. · Full-time
Oct 2021 - Aug 2023 · 1 yr 11 mos
Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

Senior Associate
Publicis Sapient
Nov 2016 - May 2017 · 7 mos
Bangalore

Project Manager -DevOps/Cloud
RGP · Full-time
Nov 2019 - Sep 2021 · 1 yr 11 mos
Bangalore

Software Engineer
Canopeer Tech
Sep 2012 - Oct 2016 · 4 yrs 2 mos
Bangalore

Education

Middlesex University
Master of Science - MS, Engineering/Industrial Management
Sep 2023 - Oct 2024

🛡 Risk Assessment

Dr.TTIT
Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.), Electronics and Communications Engineering
2008 - 2012

Subra Beladakere's Profile

Subra's skills are highly relevant to Destiny-Gram's requirements, in a supportive role to Matthew Wright as CTO:

Strengths:

1. **Full-Stack Development (React/Node.js):** His expertise in full-stack development (React/Node.js) is directly applicable to our current platform, which uses React/Node.js. He will be comfortable with maintaining and enhancing the front-end and back-end of the web application.

2. **Python & Machine Learning:** Since our project involves AI to analyze MCQs and create personal profiles, his Python and Machine Learning experience will be valuable. Python is a key language for AI and ML work, and with his background he can build or integrate the necessary models to analyze the MCQs and generate profiles.

3. **DevSecOps/MLOps:** His experience with MLOps and DevSecOps will help in setting up continuous integration and deployment pipelines for machine learning models, ensuring our AI platform is scalable, secure, and can handle ongoing updates as it grows.

4. **Cloud (Azure):** His cloud expertise (specifically with Azure) will be beneficial for managing the infrastructure and ensuring that our platform is scalable, secure, and efficient. Given our platform's use of AI, cloud services are essential for hosting models and processing large amounts of data.

5. **Engineering Management:** With a Master's in Engineering Management, he can help lead and manage technical teams, set timelines, and streamline the development process, which will be key as our project scales.

Caveats:

• AI/ML Experience Specific to our Project: His background is strong in general AI/ML, but MCQ analysis and user profiling could require specialized expertise in Natural Language Processing (NLP) and user behaviour modelling.

• Domain Knowledge: Based on the complexity of the MCQ analysis and profiling , we might want to ensure he understands how to implement algorithms to generate accurate personal profiles based on the responses and how to integrate these profiles with AI chatbots in a meaningful way. This may require some additional learning or research on his part, or lead to some programming outsourcing.

Subra was identified and contacted via the Y-Combinator Co-Founder Matching Platform in March 2025, after rejection of Destiny-Gram's first application to Y-Combinator for startup funding of $500,000.